



Director's Report
December 19, 2013
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Community Preservation Act Application: This past month I put together and submitted a Town Community Preservation Act Application and submitted that application to the Town's Community Preservation Committee. I have made a request for a \$15,000 grant to be used to develop and print a Town-Wide Trail Guide. I will be presenting to the CPC on January 23, 2014

Land Acquisition

Fleck Conservation Restriction (24 Twinings Lane): The Conservation Restriction (CR) was recorded at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds on December 12, 2013! I will be sending out final acknowledgment letters and helping Ann get an appraisal done for the property. I will also be drafting some language to acknowledge the gift through our website and Constant Contact e-mail program.

Land Management

Namequoit Bog: This past month I worked with the Cape Cod Commission to collect LiDar mapping data to help us better understand the bog topography and elevation changes. That information was sent to the State's Department of Ecological Restoration for review. After reviewing the LiDar mapping information a few quick observations were made by the State:

Tidal Monitoring:

- There is some tidal influence within the bog, and water surface elevations fluctuate about 0.6 feet each tidal cycle. The influence is relegated to the main bog channel and immediate channel margin. This is likely due to the gate requiring a positive head to seat tightly; there is some leakage through the flume until the tide reaches that point.

LiDAR Mapping Observations:

- The bog surface lies between 5-6 feet above the elevation of predicted tides (HAT = Highest Astronomic Tide = 4.4 ft, NAVD88). Therefore, if the site was opened to tidal influence, the bog's surface would only see salt water during a large storm surge.

Initial Conclusions:

- Namequoit Bog currently lies above the influence of predicted tides, so for now tidal restoration (converting the bog to a brackish or semi-brackish system) is off the table. The bog elevation is too high, and culverts between Paw Wah Pond and Namequoit Bog would need to be replaced to provide for better exchange. Going forward we should manage the site as a freshwater wetland, using the existing flash boards to impound water in the site with the goal of re-wetting the bog soils and surface. Due to a lack of a formal management plan and the recent installation of the new dike, the property is somewhat "confused" as to what it should be, and a stable hydro-regime may permit desired targets to evolve over time.

Of course, this is a long term project and we will need to continue to collect information about the bog and make observations. Any major management work (which would include heavy machinery) to be conducted this coming year will require a State Notice of Intent application.

Annual Mowing: I have finished mowing back all our properties that are made up of early succession field ecosystems. Those being: Ewald Gift, Young/Flint Gift, Mauch Gift, Hannum Gift, Kaitz Gift, and Fleck Gift.

Fundraising/ PR/ Branding

Fall 2013 Newsletter: As planned, the Fall 2013 newsletter was completed, sent out, and received a few days before Thanksgiving. I have heard nothing but good things about the newsletter.

Year- End Appeal: The year-end appeal was finalized and sent out this past week. For the first time we not only sent the mailing to our database members, but also Town wide. While similar in content, the letters were tailored to the recipient. We also sent out 20 targeted letters to donors outside of the Board who have given generously during past year-end appeals. I included a personalized hand-written letter to each of those donors.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Walk: On Saturday, January 4th, 2014 we will be hosting an educational walk into Hosea's Swamp off Quanset Road. Todd Kelley, Native Naturalist and owner of Kelley Trail Blazers will be leading the walk.

Up-coming Talk: On Monday, January 6th, 2014 from 6:30-730pm we will be hosting an educational lecture entitled the "History of the Wild Turkey" at the Orleans Yacht Club. Brian Malone, Retired Director of the Town of Dennis Natural Resources Department will outline the history of the wild turkey in MA from its demise in the mid-1800s to the modern restoration efforts. A highlight will be his turkey call demonstrations.

Recent Educational Walks: This past month I led a walk at the Twinings Pond Conservation Area. While we had a small group of attendees, the group included a number of recent major donors and community members new to our walks who came after reading about the walk in our newsletter.